Notes taken while observing and talking to braceros

4/11/58

Nearly all the braceros that came in today were wearing homemade sandles, where as the ones before all wore shoes.

Most all the braceros have told me that at home they always bathe in the river nearest their home.(about once a week.)

Many of the braceros have been asking me if all this work on rockets to the moon and outer space have anything to do with all this bad weather we have been having.

I have also been asked if this guy Saund has had anything to do with the reduction of braceros and short-term contracts. (by Yuma and Imperial Valley returnees.)

When a bracero first comes in he is the politest man in the world. When he comes back or has been in the U.S. several times he is nothing but a smart-aleck.

We have a big rush on for men starting next week.

Tagaban

7/19/58

CONVERSATION WITH BURR AND SERDAN

I reported for work Thursday morning. It was about 11 A.M. when I noticed Burr and Serdan walking towards me. At first I only thought they wanted to listen in on one of my interviews, but as they walked up to me Burr said;

Just what are you asking these men?

Answer; The questions I went over with you and Mr. Serdan.

Burr; It has been reported to Mr. Serdan that you are asking questions about bribes. Is it true?

At this point Serdan told the bracero I was talking to, to go away.

Answer; It is not true. Here are the questions I am asking and all the work I have done this morning. You can see there is nothing about bribes in there.

Burr; He grabs the papers out of my hand and walks over to the shade with Serdan.

At this point Burr is called away for a phone call from El Paso.

Serdan; There hav e been many braceros come to me, whom you have interviewed, and ask me..... Who is that man?, Why is he asking so many questions about bribes?,

They said that you asked them who asked for the bribes, who collected them, how much, who the big chief was, and how they got on the list.

Answer; It is not true. You can see for yourself the kind of questions I have been asking and the answers I have been getting.

Serdan; You better watch your step. How many interviews have you done so far?

Answer; about 30.

Serdan; Don't you think it is enough?...He starts to walk away.

Answer; I was hoping I could work thru Monday.

No answer.....

I continued to interview fo the rest of the day.

My lawyer friend noticed the whole thing and he told that probably one of the stooges working in the reception center, tried to get in the graces of Serdan and told him a pack of lies.

For the rest of the day I noticed either a soldier or one of the stooges hanging around and listening in on my interviews

The next morning I gathered all the material I had and went toBurr and told him I wanted to go over them with him and Serdan. He told me to sit down and wait until Serdan was free.

I waited over half a day and I was completely ignored. Burr was more interested in the repairs going on in the building and he never got around to me, even though he passed by me every five or ten minutes. I finaly got tired of being given the cold shoulder and I walked out of that center for good.